



News Release

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President Bush Proclaims National Small Business Week, Calls on Americans to Celebrate the Nation's 'Entrepreneurial Spirit'

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush applauded America's 25 million small businesses as one of the greatest strengths of an American economy that is the most prosperous in the world, and proclaimed the week of April 24-30 as National Small Business Week to celebrate their contributions.

"America's economy is the most prosperous in the world, and the small business sector is one of its great strengths," the President said in his annual proclamation. "During Small Business Week, we honor small business owners and workers, and we reaffirm our commitment to keeping America the best place in the world to do business.

"Our economy is strong and growing stronger. More Americans are working today than ever before. The unemployment rate is lower than the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Homeownership is at a record high. Family incomes are rising. Small businesses are at the heart of this growth, creating most new private-sector jobs in our economy and helping our citizens succeed," the President said.

"My Administration is committed to keeping small businesses vibrant and strong. We provided tax relief and streamlined tax reporting requirements for small businesses. We are working to reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation and excessive litigation. We are working to make health care more available and affordable. We are opening up markets for U.S. products through free trade agreements and by enforcing existing trade laws. And we have promoted a culture of ownership so that more people can own their own homes and start their own businesses."

The President's proclamation called on "all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that celebrate the achievements of small business owners and their employees and encourage and foster the development of new small businesses."

The U.S. Small Business Administration is a proud partner in this nation's ongoing mission to create an environment in which small businesses can grow and thrive. Small business owners from across the country will be in Washington, D.C., April 26-28 to participate in conferences, celebrations, and matchmaking events at the U.S. Small Business Administration's *SBA Expo '05*, co-sponsored by SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business. For more information about the events, visit www.sba.gov/expo.

Editor please note: The full proclamation can be found at:
www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/04/20050414-6.html